

1608/3704

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To the CURIOUS.

*Clare Court.*

AS News-paper Squabbles are a sort of Writing with which  
I am little acquainted, and have less Inclination to enter  
into, (having observed that few are so happy as to avoid per-  
sonal Reflections) I had almost resolved to take no Notice of the  
many repeated Falshoods and Misrepresentations, in the several  
Advertisements lately published by the Editor of *The History and  
Proceedings of the House of Commons in 3 Volumes*, for *twenty  
Years only*, viz. from the Death of Queen *Ann* to the Year  
1734. But as my Silence may possibly be taken for a tacit Ac-  
knowledgment of what he has falsely asserted, either in Disparage-  
ment

ment of my Edition, or in Praise of his own, I am obliged to say something in my own Defence, especially as he set me at Defiance, in *Common Sense* of the 28th of March, to name any one Falshood he had asserted, on pain of being fixed (as he is pleased to express it) *with the glaring Title of Liar.*

This Challenge was indeed something extraordinary from a Man, who had but a few Days before contradicted himself; for in the *Champion* of the 3d of the same Month of March, he positively asserted, that *ONE Page of his Edition in three Volumes, contained near seven Pages of my Edition in nine Volumes;* and in the *Champion* of the 17th of the same Month he as positively asserted, that *THREE Pages of his Edition contained near seven of mine.*

Surely, both these Assertions cannot be true; for if it be true, that seven Pages of my Edition are equal to three of his, it cannot be true, that seven Pages of mine are equal to no more than one of his; and therefore I must conclude, that his Memory must be very short, or his Modesty not very great.

But in order to demonstrate that both these Assertions are equally false, though not equally glaring, I shall compare one of the fullest Pages in his Edition with one of the fullest in mine; which every impartial Man must allow to be a proper Method for computing how many Pages of my Edition can be supposed to be contained in three Pages or in one of his. For this Purpose I shall take the 56th Page of his first Volume, which is one of the fullest in any of the three, and in this Page there are 2218 Letters, as every one may see that will be at the Pains to number them: Then I shall take the 45th Page of the 7th Volume of my Edition, which is one of the fullest of any of the nine (except the *Appendix* to Vol. 7th) and in this Page there are 1550 Letters: the Difference between 1550 and 2218 is 668, which is not a half of 1550, and therefore one of his Pages can in general be supposed to contain not one and a half of mine, and consequently three of his Pages cannot contain four and a half of mine.

This is such a clear Demonstration of the Falshood of both his Assertions, that when it was published in *Common Sense*, April 11th, the only Reply he made to it was, to say with his usual Modesty, in *Common Sense* April 18th, *That my Calculation was false*, without attempting to shew, how it was so. In *Common Sense* March 28, he adds a third Falshood, by asserting, that his three Volumes contain as much as seven of mine; which is the most unlucky Lie that ever any Blunderbuss could be guilty of, because it will make the Publick take Notice, that though he may have more Letters in a Page, yet I have more Sheets in a Volume, and consequently the Difference between one Volume of my Edition and one Volume of his, cannot be so great, as between one of my Pages and one of his.

To



To make this manifest, I shall pursue the former Calculation, by supposing every one of his Pages to contain as many Letters as the Page I have already taken Notice of, that is 2218 Letters, which multiplied by 16 the Number of Pages in a Sheet, makes 35488 Letters in a Sheet, and this again by 80, the Number of Sheets in his three Volumes, makes 2,839,040 Letters in the whole.

Then again, supposing each of my Pages to contain as many Letters as the Page I have already taken Notice of, that is 1550 Letters, which multiplied by 16, the Number of Pages in a Sheet, makes 24800 Letters in a Sheet, and this again by 100 $\frac{1}{2}$  the Number of Sheets in three of my Volumes only, *viz.* the 7th, 8th and 9th, makes the Number of Letters in these three Volumes only, amount to 2,492,400, which is but 346640 Letters more in his whole three Volumes than there are in three of mine only; and consequently his three Volumes cannot contain so much as three and a half of mine. From whence it is evident, that supposing the Paper and Print of the two Editions to be equal, mine must be a better Pennyworth than his, because three Volumes and a half of mine, at 5 s. a Volume, being the Price my Edition is sold at, amount to but 17 s. 6 d. and his three Volumes at 6 s. a Volume, being the Price his is sold at, amounts to 18 s. But when it is considered that my Edition is printed upon a fine Paper, and with a large, clear, beautiful Letter; and his Edition upon a coarse nasty Paper, on a pitiful small Letter, my Edition must be allowed to be by far the best Pennyworth, especially considering that the Purchaser of 3 Volumes and a half of mine has for 17 s. 6 d. above 36 Sheets of Paper more than the Purchaser of his three Volumes has for 18 s.

The Calculations I have made are sufficient for shewing the Falshood of every thing he has asserted, but to make it still more plain, and to shew that this Method of Calculation is more favourable for his Edition than it deserves, I must desire the Reader to turn to the very first Leaf of his first Volume where he will see p. 2 the Lords Justices Speech upon his late Majesty's Accession, which there takes up exactly one Page; and then I must desire him to turn to Page 258 of my 6th Volume where he will see the same Speech Word for Word, which there takes up one Page and 13 Lines, or a Third of a Page; consequently three Pages or three Sheets of his are equal but to four of mine; and as his three Volumes contain but 80 Sheets and three of mine contain 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ , therefore his three Volumes cannot contain so much as three Volumes and one fifth of a Volume of mine; from whence it appears that the Purchaser of my Edition has more for 16 s. than the Purchaser of his Edition has for 18 s.



Having now fully answered this Editor's modest Challenge, and having proved him guilty, I believe to his own Conviction, I shall not trouble the Publick any farther by disputing with a Person who seems determined to support one Falshood by asserting another; therefore I shall take my Leave of him, and refer the Curious to the following Summary of the Contents of the 9 Volumes now published, by which (though far short of the full Contents) it will appear, that there are almost six Volumes containing the Proceedings in Parliament for 47 Years, before the Period at which the Edition in three Volumes begins; and a Collection containing all the material Debates, both of the Lords and Commons, together with some scarce and valuable Tracts relative thereto, must certainly be allowed to be more complete, than any Collection can be made, which is to contain the Extract of the Debates of the Commons only.

As to the Merit of the Work itself I shall conclude with the following Quotation from the Preface to the 9 Volumes.

*What is now offer'd to the Publick is a Collection from a great Number of Books, many of which are scarce and bear a great Price, from a few Years after the Restoration to this present Time. Many Things have been omitted which would have swelled its Bulk, but would have added little to its Usefulness or Entertainment. The greatest Care was taken to prevent any Thing that might look like Party Business in it; nothing was designedly left out, which was not judged to be spurious, or not agreeable to the Design of such a Collection; nor any Thing added merely on Account of its being favourable to any Party. And the Reader may be assured, that there is not any Debate published in this Collection, but with a View to give some Light into the History and Constitution of England, or to teach some important Lesson in Politics; either by pointing out the Dangers that attend the public Liberty, from the Encroachments of the Court, and the open and secret Attacks which have been made upon the Constitution from that Quarter, or the low mean Arts which have been employ'd by Party-men to throw every Thing into Confusion, in order to gratify private interested Views, under the Name of Patriotism. In short, whatever appear'd to have been spoken or done in either of the Houses, which had any Tendency to what should be the chief View of such a Collection, has, as far as proper Materials could be procured, been faithfully inserted. And as there are many very curious and remarkable Speeches made in the Scotch Parliament, especially about the Time of the Union, the Reader will not probably be ill pleased to meet with them in this Collection.*

JOHN TORBUCK.



A Summary of the Contents of a Collection  
of Parliamentary Debates in *England*, in  
Nine Volumes.

VOL. I. from 1668 to 1680.

**D**UKE of Buckingham's Speech relating to the East India Company, and Mr. Skinner.—Lord Lucas's Speech on the Subsidy Bill.—Two Conferences on the Money Bill, with Lords and Commons Reasons.—Lord Shaftsbury's Speech against the Dutch.—Commons Address against Indulgence; the King's Answer: their 2d Address.—A Bill for Ease of Protestant Dissenters.—Address against Papists.—The Test Act brought in by E. of Shaftsbury, and supported by E. of Bristol; D. of Buckingham's Speech in Defence of himself against the House of Commons.—Resolutions of the House against a Standing Army; K. Speech at the Opening of the 14 Sessions of the long Parliament.—Mr. *Locke's* Account of that Session.—Proceedings relating to an Appeal brought by Dr. Shirley against Sir John Fagg, &c.—Lord Shaftsbury's Speech in a Debate thereon.—Protestation and Reasons of several Lords for the Dissolution of this Parliament; and two seasonable Discourses thereupon.—D. of Buckingham's Speech for Toleration.—A Letter concerning the Proceedings of the Parliament 1675.—The K. four Speeches at the Opening of the 16, 17 and 18 Sessions of the long Parliament.—The D. of Buckingham's Speech to prove the Long Parliament dissolved, for which he and three other Lords are committed to the Tower.—The Commons's Examinations and Resolutions concerning the Popish Plot.—Agreed to by the Lords.—Secretary *Williamson* sent to the Tower, the King releases him, the Commons Address and the King's Answer and Speech to both Houses, Bill to disable Papists to sit in Parliament, and Proceedings against the E. of *Danby*, Articles against him, his Speech in the H. of Lords, and Ld Caernarvon's Speech in his Defence.—K. prorogues and dissolves the Parliament, The third Parliament meets, K. Speech, Ld Chancellor *Finch's* Speech.—Commons Representation of K. refusing to approve the Speaker they had chosen, K. Answer and Commons Address; the King prorogues the Parliament.—The 2d Session the Commons prosecute the E. of *Danby*, Mr. *Powel's* Speech against him, with the whole Proceedings.—Ld *Shaftsbury's* Speech in the H. of Lords.—The Commons Address against the D. of *Lauderdale*.—The Commons resolve to bring in the Exclusion Bill against the Duke of *York*, Proceedings against the 5 Lords.—The Substance of the Exclusion Bill, the Parliament prorogued and dissolved

solved, a curious Letter concerning the same.—The 4th Parliament meet, the K. Speech, the *Ld Russell* moves for the bringing in the Exclusion Bill, Sir *H. Capel* seconds him in a Speech.—The whole Debates thereupon.—Debates concerning the Petition of the Company of Silk Weavers. a Message from the K. and the Commons Address, the engrossed Bill against the D. of *York*, and the Debates thereon, the King's Message about *Tangier*, and Debate thereon, and Commons Address.—Debate concerning the dismissing a Grand-Jury in *Middlesex*.—The King's Speech to both Houses, and Debate of the Commons concerning it.—A Debate in a Grand Committee, how to secure the Kingdom against Popery and arbitrary Government.

VOL. II. from 1680 to 1692.

**P**ROCEEDINGS against Sir *William Scroggs* L. C. Justice and other Judges.—Debates in the House of Commons on the *Irish Plot*.—Continuation of the Debates on the *Exclusion Bill*. A List of the House of Commons in 1680.—Debates in the House of Commons at *Oxford* on the Exclusion of the D. of *York*, and concerning *Fitzbarris*.—Eight Speeches of *Hen. Booth*, afterwards E. of *Warrington*, viz. 1st, for the Exclusion Bill, 2d, against arbitrary and illegal Imprisonments by Privy Council. 3d, Against the Bishops voting in Cases of Blood. 4th, Against Pensioners. 5th, For the sitting of Parliaments, and against Favourites. 6th, On some Justices being put out of Commission. 7th, For banishing Papists. 8th, Of the Corruptions of Judges.—A Debate between the Lords and Commons on the Vacancy of the Throne, and the Word *Abdicated*.—Declaration of both Houses of Parliament, concerning the Misgovernment of K. *James* the 2d, and filling up the Throne.—Declaration of the Estates of *Scotland* on the Misgovernment of King *James* the VIIIth, and the filling up the Throne.—The Coronation Oaths of *England* and *Scotland*.—Proposals to the *Convention* for settling the Government.—The *Convention* proved a legal *Parliament*.—Thoughts about the Justice of the Gentlemens Undertaking at *York*.—Debates on the Bill for regulating Trials for High Treason.—The King's Speech.—Earl of *Mulgrave's* Speech on free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament, House of Commons order a Pamphlet to be burnt, entitled, King *William* and Queen *Mary* Conquerors.—Address of the Commons on the State of *Ireland*, the King's Speech, and the Representation of the Commons on the King's refusing his Assent to the Bill, touching free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament. APPENDIX. Earl of *Shaftsbury's* Speech on the Popish Plot and the Exclusion Bill.—A just and modest Vindication of the two last Parliaments 1680.—LORDS PROTESTS against refusing

refusing to appoint a Committee to enquire into the State of the Kingdom.—On the Impeachment of Sir *William Scroggs*.—On the Bill for abrogating the Oaths of Allegiance.—On the Bill for uniting the Subjects.—On the Commons Amendments to the Bill for abrogating the Oaths.—On censuring a Paper of *Titus Oates*.—On refusing to reverse the Judgment against *Titus Oates* and Sir *Samuel Barnadison*.—On the Bill of Rights.—On the Trial of Peers in full Parliament.—On the Bill to restore Corporations.—Concerning Advice to his Majesty.—On rejecting the Bill for free and impartial Proceedings in Parliament.—On the Bill for re-cognizing K. *William* and Q. *Mary*.—On expunging the former Protestation.—On the House refusing to receive Petitions for protecting their Majesty's Servants.—On the Bill for impartial Proceedings in Parliament, and agree with the Commons—against the Vote of Approbation of the Admirals. against entring written Protections.

VOL. III. from 1694 to 1703.

**K**ING'S Speech.—Inquiry of the Commons into Abuses and Corruptions, Report of Committee to inspect into the *E. India* Company's Books.—The Speaker of the House of Commons expelled for Corruption.—Farther Proceedings against Bribery and Corruption.—Commons resolve to impeach the D. of *Leeds*.—State of the Coin enquired into, and Debates thereon.—Parliament dissolved and a new one called.—K. Speech and a Bill for regulating Trials for High Treason.—Debates on Grants made to the E. of *Portland*.—K. Speech and Parliament Addresses on Discovery of the Assassination Plot.—Association for Security of his Majesty's Person, and K. Speech thereupon. Sir *John Fenwick* attainted of High Treason, Speeches for and against the Bill and Lords Protest.—King's two Speeches and Resolutions of the Commons about disbanding the Army, raising Supplies, and paying Arrears.—Abuses in Exchequer Bills, and Proceeding on *East India* Trade and Company.—*Molineux's* Case of *Ireland* censured by the Commons.—King's Speech and Resolution of the Commons to disband the Army.—K. Message about his *Dutch* Guards, &c.—Debates on the forfeited Estates in *Ireland*.—Debates on the Partition Treaty, and Resolution of the Commons to impeach the E. of *Portland* and L. *Somers*.—Commons Address against Ld *Somers*, *Orford*, *Halifax* and *Portland*, with a counter Address from the Lords, and Message from the King. The *Kentish* Petition and Legion Letter.—Impeachment of the Lords *Orford* and *Somers*, and Debates thereon.—Commons complain against Ld *Haversham*, with his Answer.—Articles against Ld *Halifax*, Debates about trying Ld *Somers* who is acquitted; Ld *Orford* acquitted, and other Impeachments



peachments dismissed.—King's last Speech with Lords and Commons Address, Q. Ann's Speech, the Address of both Houses, and several Books censured by the Lords.—Queen's Speeches, Addresses of both Houses, and Proceedings against the Bishop of *Worcester*.—Queen's Message and Commons Address about *Ld Marlborough*.—Proceedings and Debates on the *Occasional Conformity Bill*.—Commons Address about Grievances, with the Lords Address and Remarks on the foregoing.—Proceedings of the *Scotch Parliament 1703*.—Bill for Security of the Kingdom, Mr. *Fletcher's* Speech for it, and for conferring all Offices by Ballot; farther Proceedings on the Act of Security; Marquis of *Anandale's* Protest.—Bill for the *Hanover Succession in Scotland*.—Q. refuses her Assent to the Act of Security, and the Union Treaty put off. APPENDIX. LORDS PROTEST on holding frequent Parliaments.—On making Perjury Felony in some Cases.—Against Descents of Baronies by Writ.—About the Bill to regulate Coinage.—On Sir *Richard Verney's* Petition for a Writ of Summons.—Against the Bill to prevent double Returns of Members.—About the Bill against wearing wrought Silks.—On the Bill for regulating Elections.—On the Trial of *Goudet* and others at the Bar.—Against the Bill for settling the *East India Trade*.—Against granting an Aid for disbanding the Army.—In the Case of *Williamson* and the King.—On the Settlement of the *Scotch at Darien*.—Against dissolving the Duke of *Norfolk's* Marriage.—Against granting an Aid to the King by *Irish* Forfeitures.—On the same.—Against the Bill for separating the Earl and Countess of *Anglesea*.—Against expunging a Fact relating to the Partition Treaty.—Four Protests on the same Treaty.—Against addressing in Favour of the 4 impeached Lords.—Against expunging the last Protest.—Five other Protests concerning the Trials of the Lords.—Against declaring Lord *Haversham* innocent.—Against a Resolution touching the printed Votes of the Commons.—Against the Bill for attainting the late K. *James's* Wife.—Against the Amendments to a Bill for securing his Majesty's Person.—Against several Clauses in a Bill relating to the Prince of *Denmark*.—On an Appeal of Lord *Wharton*.—On the Bill for qualifying Members of the House of Commons.—Against printing the *Occasional Conformity Bill*.—Against passing the Bill for raising Recruits.—On Sir *John Maclean's* Narrative to the Earl of *Nottingham*.—A List of both Houses of Parliament in 1703.

VOL. IV. from 1703 to 1705.

P Proceedings of the House of Commons, House of Peers, and in the Court of Queen's Bench, in the great Case of *Ashby and White*.—Debates on the Question, whether an Action lies for an

an Elector, who is denied his Vote for Member of Parliament, with the several Speeches thereupon? The Case of *Denzil Onslow*, Esq; the Speeches of Mr. *Harley*, Mr. *Brewer*, Sir *Thomas Powis*, Sir *John Hawles*, Sir *Edward Seymour*, Marquis of *Huntington*, Mr. *Lowndes*, Sir *Simon Harcourt*, Mr. *Dormer*, Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, Sir *Thomas Meres*, Mr. *Cowper*, Sir *Humphrey Mackworth*, Sir *Gilbert Dolben*, Mr. *King*, Sir *Thomas Littleton*, Mr. Serjeant *Hooper*, Sir *William Strickland*, Mr. *Walpole*, Marquis of *Hartington*, Sir *Christopher Musgrave*, Mr. *St. John*, &c. with the several Reports, Arguments, and Resolutions of both Houses thereupon, with the Opinions of L. C. J. *Holt*, Judge *Gould*, and Judge *Powel*; also the Representations of the Lords, and the Addresses of the Commons to the Queen, with several Precedents of the Journals of each House relating thereto.—Proceeding of Both Houses on the *Occasional Conformity Bill*.—Debates in the *Scotch* Parliament, Speeches of the *High Commissioner*, Lord *Chancellor*, E. of *Cromarty*.—Two Speeches on the *Hanover* Succession.—The Act of *Security* and *High Commissions* Speech on passing it.—Farther Proceedings of the *Scotch* Parliament; the Queen's Letter, and the *High Commissioner*, and *Ld Chancellor's* Speeches, the Proceedings thereupon.—Proceedings of the *English* Parliament, Queen's Speech, Lords and Commons Address, and *Ld Haverham's* Speech.—Debate in the House of Lords concerning the Danger of the Church.—Speeches on that Occasion of *Ld Rochester*, Bishop of *London*, Bishop of *Salisbury*, Archbishop of *York*, *Ld Wharton*, Bishop of *Ely*, Bishop of *Lichfield* and *Coventry*, Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*, and *Ld Somers*; Resolution of the Lords that the Church was in no Danger.—Protest of the Lords against the said Resolution.—The Queen's Proclamation concerning the Danger of the Church.

VOL. V. from 1706 to 1712.

Proceedings in the *Scotch* Parliament on the Union, Petition of *Lauder*, and *Ld Belhaven's* Speech against it.—Bill for Security of the *Scotch* Church.—Account of the burning the Articles of Union at *Dumfries*.—Petition of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*.—The Articles of Union.—Proceedings in the *English* Parliament.—Speeches (on the Union) of E. of *Nottingham*, Sir *John Packington*, *Ld Haverham*, *Ld North* and *Grey*, *Ld Halifax*, E. of *Rochester*, E. of *Wharton*, Bishop of *Bath* and *Wells*.—The Lords Approbation and Ratification of the Union, and *Protests* thereupon.—Proceedings of the first *British* Parliament.—Lords Address and Commons Resolutions against Captain *Kerr*.—Queen's Answer to the Commons about the Affairs of *Spain* and *Portugal*.—Lords Address

Address and Report concerning the Mismanagement of the Navy, and the Ld High Admiral's Answer, and 2d Report of the Lords.—Debates of the New Parliament on *Scotch* Peers eldest Sons sitting there.—Two Speeches of Ld *Haverham* on the *Scotch* Invasion, and Votes of the Commons thereupon.—Account of the Trial of Dr. *Sacheverell*, Debates of the House of Lords thereupon; with a List of the Members of both Houses, who voted for and against him.—A List of the Commons for and against the *Hanover* Succession 1702, with the Answer and Reply.—A Speech in the House of Commons on a Bill to limit the Number of *Placemen*.—Queen's Speech to the New Parliament.—The Lords and Commons Address, and Debates about it; Mr. *Lechmere's* Speech in Favour of the *Hanover* Succession; Sir *John Packington's* Speech about the Charter of *Bewdley*; Enquiry of the Lords into the Affairs of *Spain*, and memorable Debate thereupon.—E. of *Galway's* Narrative, and the five Questions put to the E. of *Peterborough*, and his Answers.—Debate about examining Ld *Tyravley*, General *Stanhope's* Letter to Secretary *Hedges*, E. of *Peterborough's* Opinion at a Council of War.—2d Debate on the Affairs of *Spain*.—E. *Sunderland's* Letter to Ld *Galway*.—Lords Debate on the meaning of the Words *Cabinet-Council* and *Ministry*, Speeches (on the Affairs of *Spain*) of E. of *Peterborough*, E. of *Nottingham*, Duke of *Marlborough*, Duke of *Argyle*, Duke of *Devonshire*, Duke of *Shrewsbury*, and E. *Rivers*.—Ld Keeper's Speech of Thanks to the E. of *Peterborough*, with his Answer; LORDS PROTESTS against rejecting the Petitions of the E. of *Galway* and Ld *Tyravley*.—Against censuring the late Ministry, and the E. of *Galway*, and Ld *Tyravley* with the Earl of *Galway's* Reply to the E. of *Peterborough's* Answer.—Proceedings of the House of Commons against Mr. *Walpole*, with a Speech against him.—Proceedings of the House of Commons on the Bill in Favour of Episcopacy in *Scotland*.—Representation of the General Assembly of the Ch. of *Scotland* to the Queen on the same.—Debates and Resolutions of the House of Commons against the Duke of *Marlborough*.—And Ld *Townsend* with Relation to the *Barrier Treaty*, with the *States-General's* Letter to the Queen thereupon.—Resolutions of the Commons on the State of the War in *Spain* and *Portugal*.—Explanation of the Offers of *France* for a General Peace; the Lords Address and Commons Representation concerning them; Votes of the Commons against the Re-Election of *Robert Walpole*, Esq;—A Bill to restore Patrons in *Scotland*, with an Account of Lay-Patronages in *Scotland*.—A Bill to repeal a *Scotch Act* for discharging the *Tule Vacance*.



## VOL. VI. from 1712 to 1717.

THE Duke of *Marlborough's* Case, and Defence of himself. — Report of the Commissioners of public Accounts. — Representation of Ch. of *Scotland* against the Patronage Bill. — Debate in the House of Lords on the Duke of *Ormond's* declining to fight, and Lords Protest thereupon. Queen's Speech on the Terms of a General Peace. Lords and Commons Address, and Debates thereupon, and Lords Protest. Preface to the Bishop of *St. Asaph's* Sermon, with the Censure upon it. A Letter from the *States General* to the Queen, with the Resolutions of the Commons against it, and the Queen's Answer. — Queen's Speech, Lords and Commons Addresses. — Debates of the Lords, on a Motion for dissolving the Union. Sir *Thomas Hanmer's* Speech against the 8th and 9th Articles of the Treaties of Commerce. — Commons Address approving the Peace. — Both Houses address against the *Pretender*. — Queen's Speech, Lords and Commons Address at the Opening of the New Parliament. Mr. *Steele's* Speech. — A Pamphlet, called the *Public Spirit of the Whigs* complained of in the House of Lords, with an Address against the Author and Publishers of it. — Complaint, Debate and Censure of Mr. *Steele* Author of the *Crisis*. — Debate of the Lords on the State of the Nation, and relating to the *Pretender*, the *Catalans* and the *Protestant Succession*. Baron *Schutz* demands a Writ for the Duke of *Cambridge* sitting in the House of Peers. Debates in the House of Lords on the *Treaties of Peace and Commerce*, and Lord *Bolingbroke's* Account of them. Commons consider the State of the Nation, vote the *Protestant Succession not in Danger*, and the Peace *safe, honourable and advantageous*. — Debates of the Commons on the *Schism Bill*. — *Presbyterians* and *Quakers* Reasons against it. — Case of the *Dutch* and *French* Churches. — Debates of the Lords on the *Schism Bill*. — The *Schism Bill* and the Protest of several Lords against it. — A Proclamation offering 5000 *l.* for apprehending the *Pretender*, and Lords Proceedings against him. — The Lord's Debates, Representation and Address about the *Spanish Trade*. Queen *Anne's* last Speech and Death. — The Lords Justices Speech to Both Houses, and the Lords and Commons Address to the King. — The Speaker's Speech upon presenting a Bill for support of his Majesty's Household. A Proclamation for a New Parliament. A List thereof. The King's 1st Speech to Both Houses. The Lords and Commons Address and Debates thereupon, and on his Majesty's *Proclamation* for calling a New Parliament. — Sir *William Windham* reprimanded by the Speaker. — Committee of Secrecy appointed, and Debates on their

their Report.—Lord *Bolingbroke*, Earl of *Oxford*, Duke of *Ormond*, and Earl of *Strafford* impeached, Debates thereupon. Articles against the Earl of *Oxford*. The Earls Speech and Answer to the Articles and Debates thereupon. King's Speech, and Mr. *Lechmere's* Speech concerning the Rebellion.—Earl of *Derwentwater* and 6 other Lords impeached of High Treason.—Proceedings in Both Houses, on the Bill for repealing the *Triennial Act*. The Debates and Protest in the House of Lords.—Debates in the House of Commons, with the Speeches of Mr. *Lyddal*, Mr. *Shippen*, Mr. *Hampden*, Sir *Richard Steel*, Mr. *Bromley*, Sir *Robert Raymond*, and Mr. *Tufnell*.—Preamble of the *Land-Tax* Bill gives Offence to the Lords.—Bill for allowing Council in Cases of Treason, rejected by the Commons, and passed the Bill to enable his Majesty to visit his *German* Dominions.—King's Message for a supply against *Sweden*, Debates and Speeches thereupon, by Mr. *Poukney*, Mr. *Stanhope*, Mr. *Smith*, Mr. *Barrington Shute*, and Mr. *Young*.—A full Account of the Earl of *Oxford's* Trial, with the Resolutions, Debates and Speeches of both Lords and Commons, viz. Duke of *Buckingham*, Ld *North* and *Grey*, Earl of *Sunderland*, Ld *Coningsby*, and Ld High Steward, Mr. *Tufnell*, Mr. *Shippen*, Mr. *Lechmere*, Mr. *Hampden* and others.—A free Conference, with the Commons Reasons, and the Lords Answer, Lord *Oxford* is acquitted, a Vote for an Address against him, a Conference of both Houses on a free and general Pardon, King's Speech and Conclusion of the Sessions.

VOL. VII. from 1717 to 1721.

THE King's Speech, and Lords and Commons Addresses, Debates on the Army, with the Speeches of Mr. *Robert Walpole*, Mr. *Craggs*, Mr. *Shippen*, for which he was sent to the Tower, Mr. *Jefferys* and Sir *Thomas Hanmer*.—Proclamation for lowering the Coin, and the Lords consider the State of the Coin.—Lords Debates on the Army and Mutiny Bills, Ld *Harcourt's* and Ld *Carteret's* Speeches, with their Protests.—Debates on the Bill about forfeited Estates.—Protests on the same.—And against the Bill for erecting Hospitals, &c.—King's Message and two Speeches, with Lords and Commons Address, and Debates thereupon, Lord *Stanhope's* and Secretary *Craggs's* Speeches.—Commons Debates on the Declaration of War against *Spain*, Lords Address on the same. Debate of Ld *Stanhope's* Bill to strengthen the Protestant Interest, with the Bishops Speeches *Pro* and *Con*, and Debates of the Commons on the same.—*Peerage* Bill, King's Message and Lords Resolutions on it.—A List of Peers from K. *James* 1st.—A List of the Alterations made in the House of Commons

mons from King *Henry* the VIIIth.—List of the *Scotch* Peers.—Abstracts of several Books for and against the *Peerage Bill*, Mr. — *B*—'s Speech for the Bill.—King's Speech and Addresses of Both Houses.—*Peerage Bill* passed the Lords, several Pamphlets on the same.—Debates in the Commons.—Speech of Sir *Richard Steele*, Sir *J. Packington*, Mr. *Craggs*, and Mr. *Robert Walpole*, the Bill rejected; two Schemes of the *South-Sea* Company, and two of the Bank of *England*, for reducing the publick Debts, the *South Sea* accepted. Debate on the Bill for securing the Dependency of *Ireland*.—A Narrative of what occasioned it.—Resolutions and Representation of *Irish* Lords in the case of *Sherlock* and *Annesley*, Duke of *Leeds*'s Protest in their Favour, and Resolutions of the *British* Lords, on the Proceedings of the *Irish* Lords.—Act securing the Dependency of *Ireland*.—Debate of the Lords on the *South Sea* Bill.—Resolutions of the *South Sea* Company, and other Proceedings on the same.—King's Speech 1720. Lords and Commons Address and Debates on *South-Sea* Scheme and Supply.—A Bill against *South-Sea* Directors, with the whole Proceedings against them. APPENDIX. An Enquiry into the Manner of creating Peers, by the late *Ld Chancellor West*.—A Speech in the House of Commons against repealing the *triennial Act* by *Archibald Hutchinson*, Esq;

VOL. VIII. from 1721 to 1723.

**I**nquiry of the Lords into the *South-Sea* Affair.—Mr. *Knight's* Letter.—Resolutions of both Houses against the *South-Sea* Directors, Mr. *Aislaby* and *J. Craggs*, Esq; a List of the Directors Estates. Some Vote for consolidating the Bill.—Debate on the Motion of Mr. *Shippen*. A Bill for suppressing of Blasphemy, *T. Vernon*, Esq; expelled the House for making a corrupt Application to *Gen. Ross*.—A List of the Directors Estates, with the Allowance to each out of them. King's Message, and *Ld Moleworth's* Speech in a Debate thereupon. A Speech against the consolidating Bill, Resolution of the Commons on public Credit.—A Conference between the 2 Houses, and Reasons of the Commons for inserting Mr. *Aislaby* and Mr. *Craggs*.—Two Speeches of Mr. *Aislaby*.—King's Speeches, and Lords and Commons Addresses, several *Protests* of the Lords, viz.—On the Debt of the *Navy*.—On refusing to address for *Ld Carteret's* Instructions.—On the Treaty of Commerce with *Spain*.—On the *Navy* Debt.—On rejecting the Petition of the City of *London* against the *Quarentine Bill*.—On the Bill to prevent Infection.—On rejecting the Motion for Sir *G. Bing's* Instructions.—Against the Mutiny Bill.—On the Debt of the *Navy*.—Against rejecting the Clergy's Petition.—Against the *Quakers* Bill.



Bill.—On a Motion relating to the *Baltic Fleet*.—Against two Resolutions of the House concerning the Sea Service.—On Abuses in victualling the Navy. Debate on the Ld Chancellor being absent, and *Protest* thereupon. Against rejecting the Bill for Freedom of Elections.—Earl of *Sunderland's* Speech on the Abuse of *Protests*.—Against expunging the Reasons of the last *Protest*.—3 *Protests* on the Navy and National Debt.—Farther Debate about *Protests*.—Against the Bill to prevent running of Goods.—Against limiting the Time of *Protesting*, and 3 *Protests* against expunging the Reasons of 3 several *Protests*.—The Speaker's Speech to the King, and the King's Speech to both Houses.—Opening of the 6th *British* Parliament.—Bill to suspend the *Habeas Corpus* Act, Reasons for and against it. Lords and Commons Addresses, and Debates on the *Habeas Corpus* Act, with an Abstract thereof.—Debate relating to the Duke of *Norfolk*.—*Protests* against his being committed.—King's Message about the Pretender's Declaration, and two Resolutions and Addresses thereupon.—Debate on taxing the Papists, Debate and 2 *Protests* of the Lords about the Delay in printing *Laver's* Trial.—*Protest* against 3 Resolutions of the House.—Against the Proofs of the Conspiracy.—Against an Amendment in the Mutiny Bill.—Common's Debates about the Conspiracy, and Resolution about the Bishop of *Rochester*, and Dr. *Freind*.—Address of Abhorrence of the Conspiracy, and a Committee appointed to enquire into the Plot.—Debate on the Punishment of the Bishop of *Rochester*. *Protest* occasioned by a Complaint of Ld *Strafford* and *Hay*. E. *Cowper's* Complaint.—*Protest* against giving leave to the Bishop of *Rochester* to make his Defence before the Commons. Bishop of *Rochester's* Petition, and a *Protest* thereupon.—Mr. *Plunket's* Trial, and two *Protests* thereupon.—Ld *Townsend's* Account of *Neynoe's* Examination.—*Protests* against passing the Bill against *Plunket*.—On the Trial of Mr. *Kelly*.—On inflicting Pains and Penalties on *Kelly*.—On the Trial of the Bishop of *Rochester*.—Against refusing to examine the Clerks of the Post Office in his Favour.—The Bishop's Witnesses examined. *Protest* on refusing to examine *Kelly*.—Debates and *Protests* relating to the Bishop, and Abstract of the Bill.—Bishop of *Salisbury's* Speech for the Bill.

APPENDIX.—Seven Reports of the secret Committee relating to the *South-Sea* Affairs.

## VOL. IX. from 1723 to 1731:

DUKE of *Wharton's* and *Ld Cowper's* Speeches for the Bishop of *Rochester*.—Debates on the Bill to tax *Roman Catholics*, *Ld Cowper's* Speech against it.—King's Speech and Addresses of both Houses.—Debate on the Mutiny Bill, Speeches thereupon, by *Lord Trevor*, *Lord Townsend*, Duke of *Wharton*, *Lord Bathurst*, *Lord Carteret*, Earl of *Strafford*, and Duke of *Argyle*.—Protests on the same.—King's Speech, Lords and Commons Addresses, a Debate about the Army.—Report about the Masters in *Chancery*, and Debates thereupon.—Earl of *Macclesfield* impeached.—Order of Common-Council of the City of *London*, on the Bill for regulating Elections; an Abstract of the Bill.—Articles against the Earl of *Macclesfield*, and the Earl's Answer. King's Message about the Civil List, and Debates about it.—Message in Favour of the late Lord *Bolingbroke*, and Debates thereon.—The Commons Reply to the *Ld Macclesfield*. Lords appoint the Day of Trial, and Rules to be observed.—A List of the Managers, and Speech of the Speakers against him.—An Address relating to the E's. Fine. Petition against the Bill to regulate Elections in the City of *London*, and two Protests against it.—Protests—against trying the Earl of *Macclesfield* at the Bar of the House—against disarming the *Highlands of Scotland*—against reversing *Ld Bolingbroke's* Attainder—against rejecting the Motion for disabling the Earl of *Macclesfield*—against allowing the Earl to sit in Parliament.—King's Speech, Lords and Commons Addresses.—Mr. *Hor. Walpole's* Speech on the State of Affairs, and Debates thereupon; with the Commons Address of Thanks.—Debate of the Lords, on the same Resolution of the Lord's Committees on several Treaties, and Protest against rejecting the said Resolutions on Address of Thanks.—King's Message about an extraordinary Supply, Lords Debates and Protest thereupon.—King's Speech, Lords and Commons Address, and Debates of both Houses thereupon; with the Speeches of *Ld Strafford*, *Ld Bathurst*, *Ld Townsend*, *Ld Bingley* and *Ld Carteret*.—A Protest on the same.—Against rejecting a Motion for an Address.—Another Protest.—Commons Resolutions on the Supply, and Debates on the *Malt-Bill*.—Lords Protest against the said Bill.—K. *George the II'd's* 1st Speech, and Addresses of both Houses.—Mr. *Shippen's* Speech against the Civil List Bill, being increased; the King's Speech, and Parliament dissolved.—A List of the 1st Parliament of K. *George II.*—King's Speech and Addresses of both Houses.—Resolutions of the Commons on a Supply, and on the State of the National Debt, and Debates thereupon.

Copies

Copies of Treaties laid before the House, Representation of the Commons to the King, the King's Answer and Message.—King's Speech at opening the Parliament, Lords and Commons Addresses, and Debate thereupon.—Reasons for and against continuing the same Number of Forces.—Resolutions on the Supply.—Debate on the Subsidies payable to Foreign Princes. 3 Petitions against the *Spanish* Depredations.—A Representation asserting our Right to cut Logwood in the Bay of *Campeachy*: Farther complaints against the *Spanish* Captures. Copy of the late King's Letter to the King of *Spain* touching the Restitution of *Gibraltar*, a Protest thereupon.—Resolutions of the Committee on the Merchants Complaints. Lords Protest on Admiral *Hofier's* Expedition. Amendments of the Lords to the Bill against Bribery and Corruption.—Protests against an Appropriating Clause in the *Corn-Bill*.—Against passing the same:—King's Speech, Lords and Commons Addrefs:—Protests this Sessions—against the Treaty of *Seville*—on the Mutiny Bill—on the Motion for a List of Pensions—two more on the Pension Bill—on the Mutiny Bill—against the *Hessian* Troops.—Copy of Pension Bill.—Debate on the Bill to prohibit lending Money to Foreign Princes without Licence.—The Speeches of Mr. *Daniel Pultney*, Sir *Robert Walpole*, Mr. *W. M.*—Mr. *Pelham*, Mr. Attorney General, Sir *William Windham*, Mr. *Barnard* and others.—King's Speech, and Lords and Commons Addresses and Debates thereupon.—An Amendment offered, Mr. *Heathcote's* Speech thereupon. Debate concerning the *Hessian* Troops.—Bill that the Law shall be in *English*, with Reasons for and against it.—State of the National Debt, &c. Account of the Produce of the Land Taxes for ten preceding Years.—Copy of the Pension Bill passed in the House of Commons.

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